

ENGLISH GENIUS SWAPS POSITION ON INTERVIEWER

John Cowper Powys, Lecturing at Goodwyn Institute, Turns Tables on "J. G. G.", Who Gets Interviewed.

BY J. G. G.

John Cowper Powys, the stormy petrel of English literature, now lecturing at Goodwyn Institute, has ideas and is not afraid to express them. In his lectures he ventilates these opinions freely. His opinions both as spoken and crystallized in books have made him a host of friends—and a swarm of enemies. He smiles at one group; grimaces at the other and goes his way gathering where he finds a more sympathetic audience. He interrupted him but he was graciousness itself.

"America's greatest contribution to literature," he declared, "is through her poetry. It is her most striking and original note. Not in England, nor all Europe is there so splendid a strain as is produced here. It is one of the anomalies of literature that a country dominated by puritan distrust of glorious life should produce such gayety and gossamer ideals."

"Of the poets—and they are such a glorious galaxy it is hard to enumerate them—I incline the Vers Libres, but my mind goes out to all the glorious sons of the morning that pipe to Apollo in the vales and along the heights to Parnassus. Robinson is wonderfully striking. He is beauty incarnate, who leads you to a new Nebo from whence marvelous vista can be discerned. Frost does not appeal to me as do many of the others. Masters in 'A Spook River Anthology' has struck a new and distinctly vital note in world literature."

"What is your opinion of Amy Lowell and her so-called 'lyphonic prose'?" asked the interviewer.

"I do not read her," Mr. Powys responded. "It is one of my few virtues."

Promising Writers.

"Do you think we have any standing compared with Europe in our fiction?" asked the interviewer, sharpening his pencil.

"I do not, and the reason is not for to seek. Whenever a man rises beyond the level of Pollyanna-pap the pointer pins of putridity begin to snuff and are soon in full pursuit. To my mind two of the most original writers of today are Dreiser and a young Southern writer of wonderful promise, James Branch Cabell, author of a promising number of books. Some of them are odd and all are of striking interest. His 'Level in Grandfather's Neck'—queer title, by the way—is worthy of keen study. He recalls Maurice Hewlett to a great extent in his keen flashes of analysis and subtle nuances of tone."

"His last and best work, 'Jurgens' has the honor of being placed on the American index purgatorious so you may know it must be good. Whenever an American produces something really worth while and insists that a spade is a spade and not a mechanical instrument used in agricultural pursuits, he is straight way adjudged guilty of lese majeste and hailed before a justice of the peace and gagged for life. The spectacle of the average politician—even docked in crime—saying whether a book is literature or pornographic prudence is enough to make muses weep. How many tears they must have shed in Anglo-Saxondom! In Cabell the South has produced one original writer since the day of Poe. They let Poe die of neglect and they are now threatening to jail Cabell. How can literature flourish under such conditions?"

Crucify Genius.

"But," defended the interviewer, "Wilde was jailed. Various are prosecuted and Dowson died of neglect."

"True enough," Mr. Powys admitted, proffering a cigarette and taking one himself; "but there the analogy rests. Their arrests had nothing to do with literature, though at that the Bourgeois element would as soon crucify genius on one pretext as the other. Mother England and daughter America are alike in that respect."

"When in an art school in Paris I met Wilde and was greatly impressed with his personality," stated the interviewer.

Mr. Powys was greatly interested at once. So much so that he neglected his cigarette, which took advantage of this cruelty and went for a call.

"No," he enthused, "How very, very interesting! Do tell me about it."

"It was while a student at the Ecole de Beaux Arts," said the interviewer, who found the tables turned on him. "One day a student, who is now a prominent architect in this country, asked me to go see a poor devil of an Englishman who was dying—that was the way he phrased it. I had intended going to a fete champetre that was being given by the Japanese ambassador in honor of the name day of the Mikado, but readily consented, and we went."

"I did not know at the time that it was Wilde, as no names had been mentioned, though in fact, that it was only some artist who had steeped his senses too deeply in Parisian lure. We arrived at a noverly-stricken flat near the church of St. Julian le Pauvre. I intended to stay only a short time. We found Wilde very much emaciated, and, in fact, in the latest stages of consumption, which he had contracted while in Reading gaol. He was one of the most brilliant conversationalists I had ever met. It was 2 o'clock before we thought of time. Exactly six months from that time he died."

"How interesting! How very, very interesting!" Mr. Powys exclaimed. "I am a great admirer of his writings, but I never had the pleasure of meeting him. Did you meet any of Wilde's friends while in Paris?"

"Yes," replied the interviewer, now the interviewed. "I know Ernest Dowson well. Once he read his wonderful 'Cynara' to me. Once, too, when feeling angry at Wilde over something that the latter had done, he told me how they had thrown his crutch at Wilde in front of a theater. This was when Wilde was at the summit of his career. He ducked his head just in time to escape a hard blow. Once when Dowson was drunk he told me the story of 'Cynara' and then after that he spoke of it quite frequently."

"How very interesting!" Mr. Powys ejaculated. "I did not know there was a story connected with the poem. Pray go on. I am all interest."

Story of Cynara.

"Well," responded the "interviewed," watching the sinuous roll of the Powysian cigarette, "at that time Dowson was a slender, brilliant young fellow, who looked long and lingered frequently around the wine when it was any old color that had a kick. He affected black and white braided checks suits and glories in purple nights. He met a French waitress

and became infatuated with her at once. There was nothing prepossessing or beautiful about her either mentally or physically. She took all the money he had; then married a waiter in the same restaurant and the two started up a restaurant of their own. Dowson went to the dogs and died of consumption shortly after. He was too faithful. In his fashion, often the words come to me as I think of his tragedy: 'I call for madder music and for stronger wine. But when the feast is ended and the lights expire, There comes thy shadow, Cynara, the night is thine. And I am smitten with an old desire. Yea, hungry for the lips of my desire. I have been faithful to thee, Cynara, in my fashion.'"

"This is news to me and of absorbing interest," Mr. Powys declared. "I am a great admirer of Dowson, and mourn that he was cut off in the outcropping of his genius. So much do I admire him that I intended to name my forthcoming book 'In My Fashion' from the refrain in Cynara."

35,000 ON STRIKE.

BARCELONA, Oct. 22.—Metal workers to the number of 35,000 have gone on strike here. The trades unions are discussing the question of striking immediately in sympathy with the metal workers who demand increased wages. The bakers, electricians and water-works employees decline to participate.

WEBB TO STUMP OHIO FOR COX

The pivotal state in the coming presidential election will be Ohio, according to opinion expressed by Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall, during his Memphis visit. And it is to Ohio that a Memphis man has been called, to take the stump during the closing days of the campaign, for Gov. James M. Cox, Democratic nominee for president. The man is J. B. Webb, attorney. He leaves Saturday night for Ashtabula, O., at the request of Senator Pat Harrison, of Mississippi, chairman of the speakers' bureau of the Democratic national committee.

Webb received a telegram Friday from Senator Harrison, giving his itinerary for speaking dates. Webb is a member of the Memphis and Shelby county bar association, and formerly held office as district attorney in Mississippi.

Chinese Girl Killed In Jump From Plane

MENTO PARK, Cal., Oct. 22.—Frances E. Lee, a Chinese girl student aviatrix, was killed when she jumped from a falling airplane. Courtney, pilot of the machine, suffered probably fatal injuries. A wing of the plane collapsed, according to witnesses.

PIGGLY WIGGLY Bulletin

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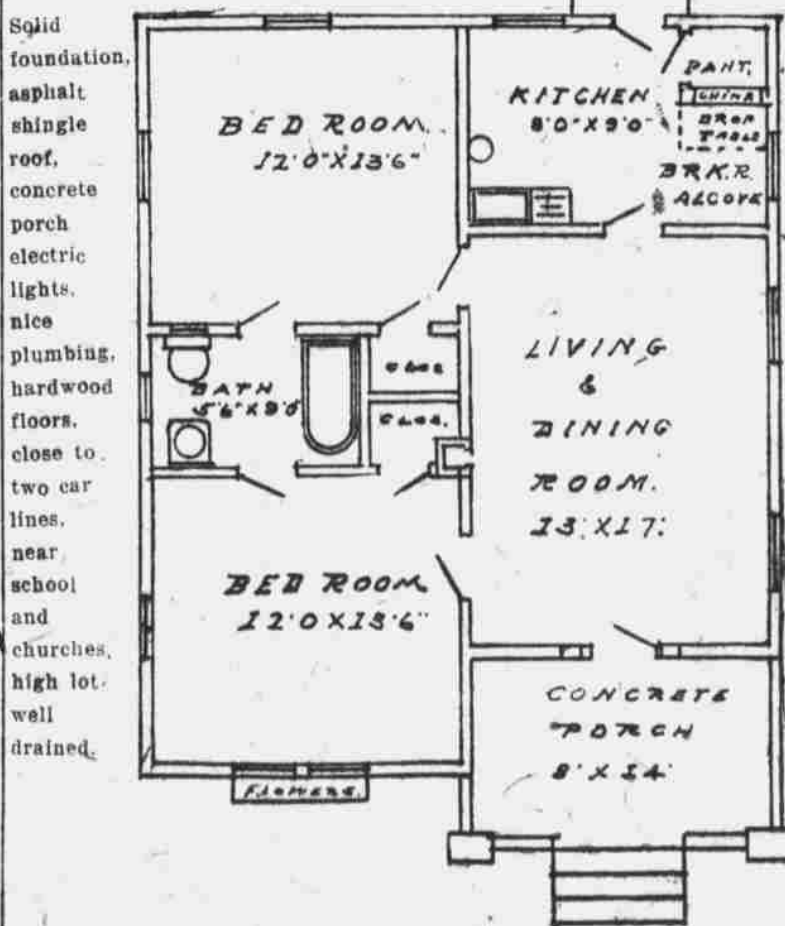
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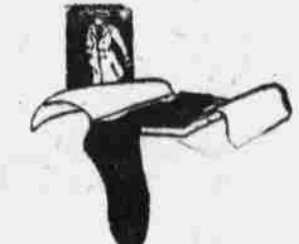
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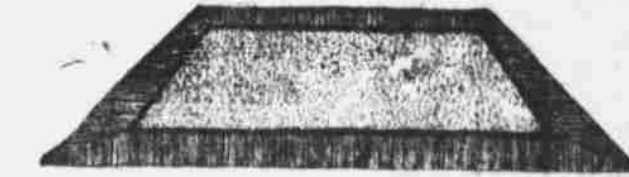
Patent coltskin, lace or button, sizes 6 - 8	\$4.50
Patent coltskin, lace or button, sizes 8 1/2 - 11	5.00
Patent coltskin, lace or button, sizes 11 1/2 - 2	5.75
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Gunmetal calfskin, lace or button, sizes 8 1/2 - 11	5.25
Gunmetal calfskin, lace or button, sizes 11 1/2 - 2	6.00
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